The Papers of James Madison. Volume I, 16 March 1751-16 December 1779. Edited by William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal. (Chicago, Illinois: The University of Chicago Press. 1962. Maps, illustrations, notes, and index. Pp. xlii, 344. $10.00.)

One of the questions frequently asked about "the Fathers" is how they came to be the kind of men they were. It is this inquiry that makes each new set of their papers stimulating reading. The first volume of the *Madison Papers* gives as broad a view as one can hope to have of the first twenty-eight years of the man who would one day become the Father of the Constitution.

By the end of 1779—when this volume ends—Madison's political career did not yet extend beyond Virginia. Within Virginia it did not extend beyond his county until May, 1776, when he served as a little-known delegate in the convention which framed the State constitution. Madison's one substantial contribution was in the wording of the provision for "the free exercise of religion" in the Declaration of Rights. He served briefly in the general assembly and then as a member of the council of state. His political career, one concludes, was not yet one of outstanding leadership in Virginia.

But details of his career are of less interest today than the development of his political thought. Most of what is learned of the latter comes from his correspondence with William Bradford of Pennsylvania (it is alarming to think how little would be known about the young Madison without that correspondence). Even so one discovers little: a few isolated passages, a few indications of the political works he may have read. It is not enough, in any event, to set the stage for later writings such as the tenth *Federalist*. Madison's interest in religion and in the issue of an established church is clearer than his concern for political theory.

The editors have performed their work well. If they have erred, it is through excessive zeal: They track down, for example, Bradford's quotations from Shakespeare and Pope; and, toward the end, they include so many of the proceedings of the council of state (in which Madison's role remains obscure) that Madison himself slips from view. But the editorial standards and long-term (twenty-volume) objective of the editors are wholly praiseworthy: to include all extant writings which were the product of Madison's mind and those "letters and other papers, addressed to him and known to have received his careful attention." Judging from this volume, the book-

dealers will be happy to clear their shelves of the old edition of Madison's writings edited by Gaillard Hunt.

Philip F. Detweiler.

Tulane University.